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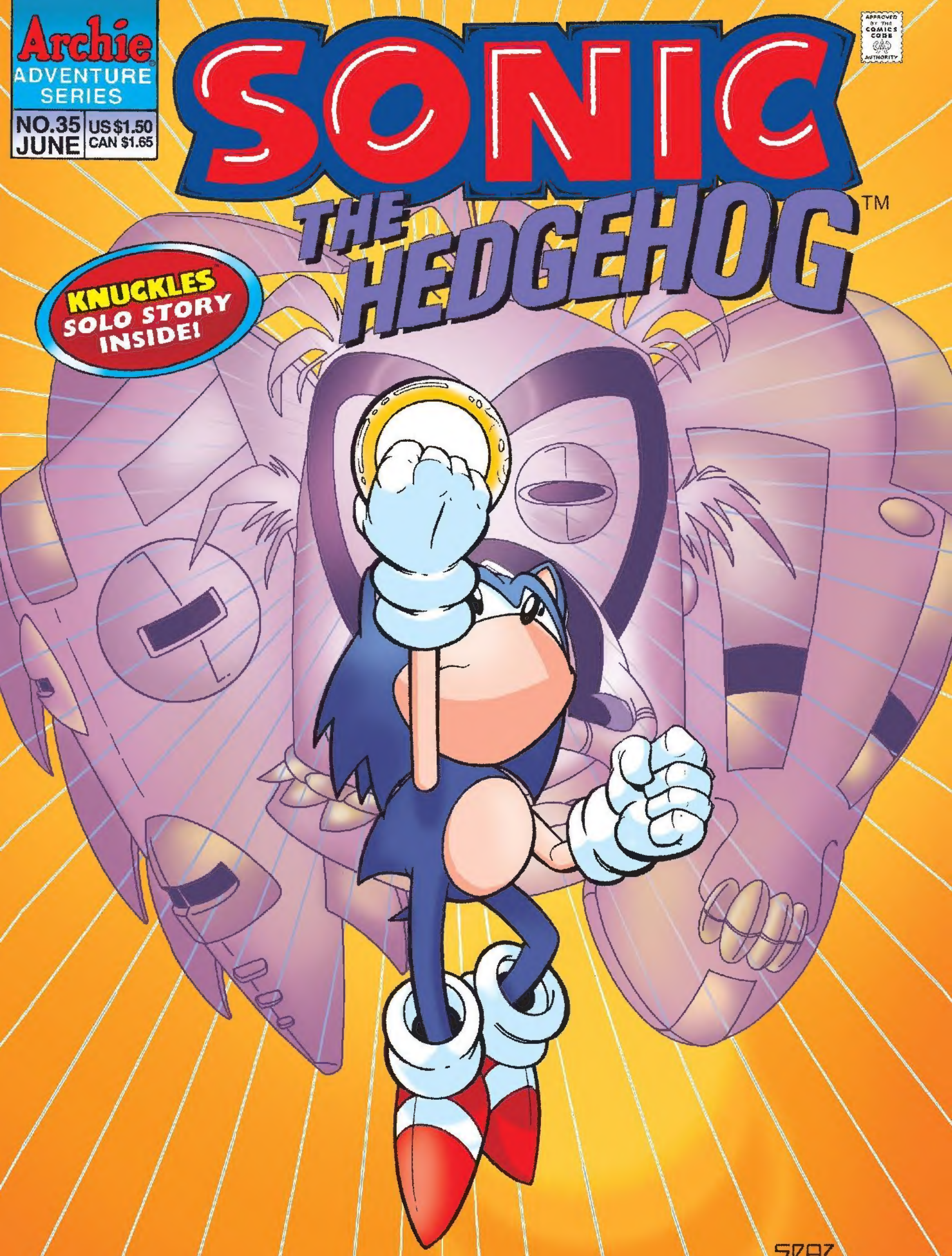
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

KNUCKLES SOLO STORY INSIDE!



SPAR/BT

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ in RING of TRUTH!

PART I

THOUGHT HE ELUDED THE EVIL DR. IVO ROBOTNIK... BUT I'VE AMBUSHED HIM!

SKTOOM!

AAAGH! YOU SNEAKY ROBORAT! YOU MADE ME DROP ALL THE *MAGIC RINGS* I GATHERED!

SCRIPT:	PENCILLING:	INKING:	LETTERING:	COLORING:	EDITOR:	MANAGING EDITOR:	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
MIKE GALLAGHER	DAVE MANAK	RICH KOSLOWSKI	MINDY EISMAN	BARRY GROSSMAN	SCOTT FULOP	VICTOR GORELICK	RICHARD GOLDWATER

WOO-HA! ALL THE RINGS GOT *RE-ABSORBED* INTO THIS *ZONE!**

AND NOW THE GROUND WILL ABSORB YOU WHEN I SMASH YOU WITH MY *MEGA-MACEBALL!!*

* *THE SAME THING HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY SEGA'S SONIC VIDEO GAMES... EDITOR*

CURSES!!! HE ELUDED ME!

WHEW! I HAD JUST ENOUGH ENERGY LEFT...

bwoing

THUMF!

MMMF! IT'S STUCK!

I'D BETTER GET JUICIN' AND FIND ANOTHER CLUSTER OF MAGIC RINGS TO GRAB!

ZOOM...

AH, HERE WE ARE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT THESE BABIES...

...I'VE PLUCKED SO MANY OVER THE YEARS I'VE LOST COUNT!

:ulp!: BUT *I* HAVEN'T! MY ON BOARD COMPUTER TABULATES EVERY RING SONIC TAKES ...:gasp!..:

YOW! WHAT THE..?!

THAT WAS RING NUMBER **ONE BILLION!**

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?

ROBOTNIK SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED... OR MAYBE *I* DID!

THE RING'S TAKING ME ON SOME KIND OF *TRANS-DIMENSIONAL* RIDE-- BUT WHY?

I SEEM TO BE SLOWING DOWN-- **OOF!** MAKE THAT GOING DOWN!

THUD!

RISE, MORTAL OF MOBIUS!

HUH? WHO? *WOW!* LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT *RING!*

I BID THEE WELCOME!

HEY! I RECOGNIZE YOU FROM TAILS' REPORT ON HIS TRIP TO DOWNUNDA! *

YOU'RE ONE OF THE *ANCIENT WALKERS!*

* IN THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED TAILS MINI-SERIES - EDITOR

INDEED! WHAT ELSE DOST THOU KNOW?

ONLY THAT I WAS BROUGHT HERE BY THIS MAGIC RING!

AH YES...QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, YOUNG ONE!

NO BIG DEAL... I GRAB THEM ALL THE TIME! THEY GIVE ME A *POWER BOOST!*

OH, SO? IS THAT ALL THEY CAN DO?

HSSSSST!

WELL, I-- EYOUCH! IT'S ON FIRE!

WOW! LOOK AT IT BURN INTO THE GROUND!

KSSSSSSSSSs...

WHAT DOES THE CIRCLE SAY TO YOU?

NOT MUCH...WAIT-- WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

RUMBLE!

Whouf!!!

FTUNK!

YOU CAN RISE ABOVE THY IGNORANCE AND BE UPLIFTED!

YIPE! I'M UPLIFTED ALL RIGHT... STRAIGHT INTO THE STRATOSPHERE!

I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT WAS NO ORDINARY RING I SNATCHED!

TRUE...YOU ARE THE FIRST TO REACH SUCH A TOTAL!

HUH? WHAT TOTAL?

ONE BILLION RINGS! A TRUE MILESTONE! SUCH A FEAT DESERVES A REWARD...

:ulp: I'LL SETTLE FOR SOME SOLID GROUND BENEATH MY FEAT-*er*-FEET!

THY GIFT SHALL BE KNOWLEDGE!

NO, REALLY... I-- *uh oh!* HERE COMES THE RING!

Whoosh!

SO BE IT!

POK!

FAREWELL!

THANKS, TO GRAVITY, I'M NOT GONNA BE *FARING* VERY *WELL* AT ALL!.. EEEE

EEYAAAAA

END OF PART I

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ in RING OF TRUTH PART II

LOOKS LIKE I LUCKED OUT... I'M GOING TO LAND IN THE GREEN SEA BELOW...

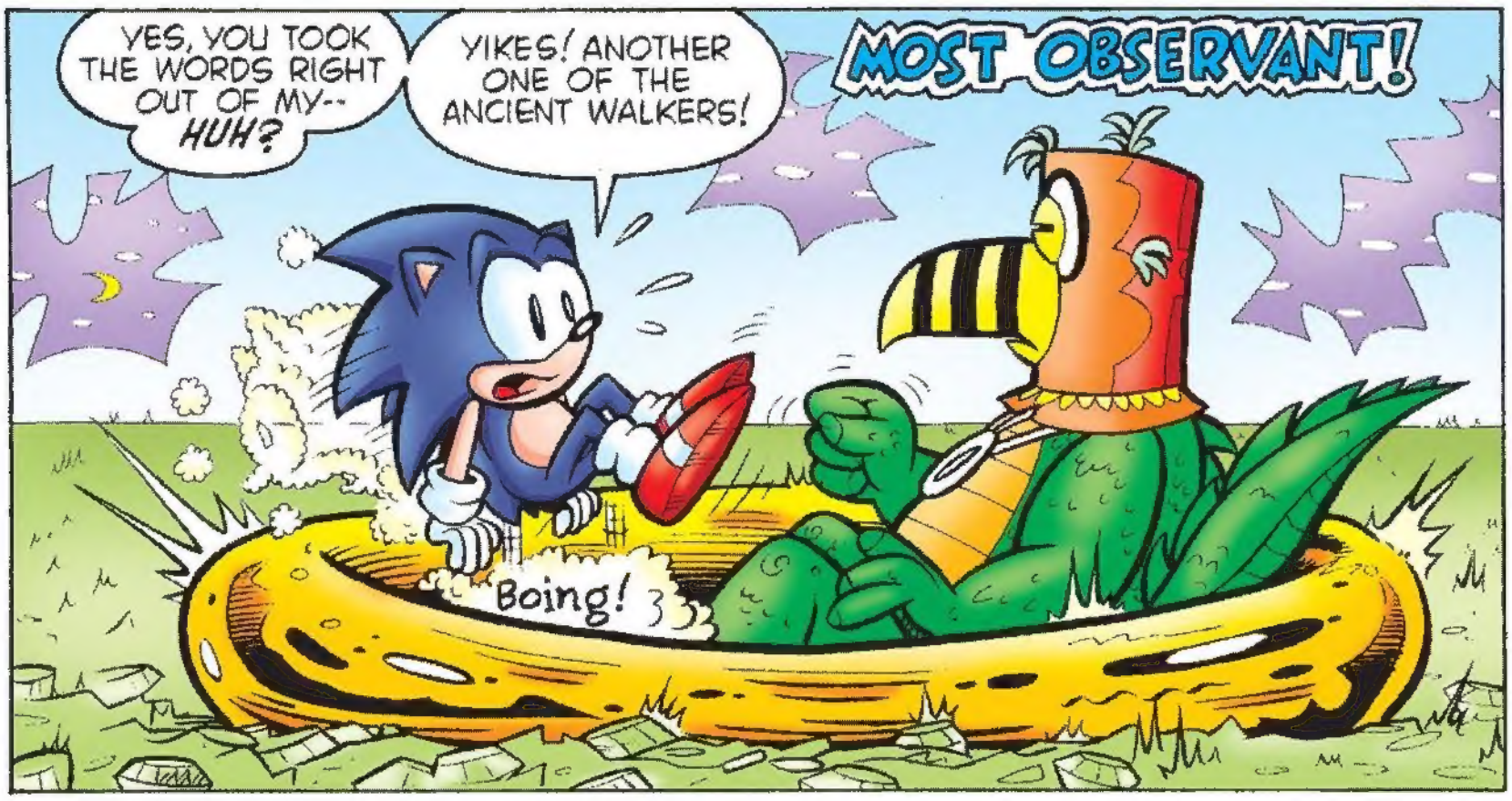
HEY... WHAT'S WITH MY BILLIONTH RING? IT'S ACTING LIKE IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN...

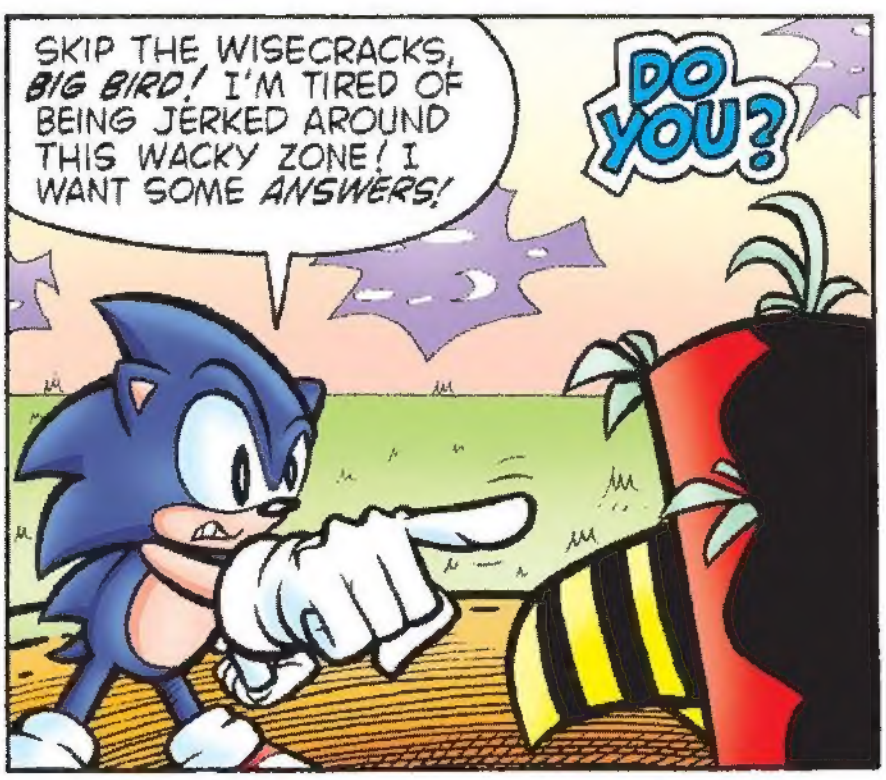
IT'S GROWING... POSITIONING ITSELF UNDER ME LIKE AN INNER TUBOOOF!

KER- -PLUNK!

WAY PAST WEIRD! THIS IS THE STRANGEST WATER I'VE EVER SEEN...

WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S NOT WATER AT ALL! THIS IS A SEA OF...
CHAOS EMERALDS!


YES, YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY-- HUH?
YIKES! ANOTHER ONE OF THE ANCIENT WALKERS!
MOST OBSERVANT!
Boing!


SKIP THE WISECRACKS, BIG BIRD! I'M TIRED OF BEING JERKED AROUND THIS WACKY ZONE! I WANT SOME ANSWERS!
DO YOU?

THEN I PROPOSE YOU FIND THEM!
?
8

WHAT'S THIS? AN *EMERALD RING!* DOES THIS MEAN CHAOS EMERALDS AND MAGIC RINGS ARE RELATED TO EACH OTHER?

BUT HOW? ARE THEY EQUAL? DOES ONE PRODUCE THE OTHER? HMF...SORT OF LIKE THE "CHICKEN OR THE EGG" RIDDLE, ISN'T IT?

AHHH...

THE MORTAL WISHES TO TRY "THE RIDDLE OF THE RINGS"! HE HATH EARNED THIS CHANCE!

I DO?

I HATH?

LISTEN WELL: 'Forever closed yet opens wide to let the other come inside...One is broken yet will be stronger as the span grows ever longer!'

Hmm...

"FOREVER CLOSED"-- THAT SURE SOUNDS LIKE A RING! LET'S SEE...WHAT IF "THE OTHER" IS ANOTHER RING?

HOW WOULD ONE LET THE OTHER "COME INSIDE"?

OF COURSE--THEY *LINK* TOGETHER!

I SEE--TWO ARE "STRONGER" THAN ONE! AND "THE SPAN" IS MORE OF THE SAME...MORE RINGS-- MORE LINKS... A *CHAIN!*

RIGHT?

LET IT COME FORTH!

Ch-KOOM!

EEYOW! IT ERUPTED OUT OF THE EMERALD OCEAN!

WAY PAST COOL! IT'S SPIRALING ALL AROUND ME!

HEY-- IT'S GETTING A LITTLE TOO CLOSE! *CALL IT OFF!*

IT'S WRAPPED ME UP! ≷umf≷ TOO HEAVY... DRAGGING ME DOWN...

≷unngh≷ ANCIENT WALKER...H-H-HELP--M-M-M-me.....

END OF PART II

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ IN RING OF TRUTH PART III

NOW WHAT? I'M UNDERNEATH THE SEA OF EMERALDS--

AND INTO ANOTHER AREA MORE BIZARRE THAN THE LAST!

THIS PLACE REMINDS ME OF VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL'S DITZY DIMENSION!* WHOA! THERE'S MY BILLIONTH RING AGAIN!

*SONIC VISITED THAT ZONE BACK IN ISSUE# 2-ED.

THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST CONFUSING ADVENTURE I'VE EVER HAD... BUT, ONE THING'S FOR SURE--

--THAT *RING* IS THE FOCAL POINT OF IT ALL! SO HERE GOES NOTHING... *GERONIMO!*

HOKEY SMOKES! IT'S BIGGER THAN EVER... AND IT'S ROTATING! IT'LL DUMP ME OUT UNLESS I START RUNNING!

PLOP!

:Huff Puff: I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN, BUT GETTING NOWHERE! Hmm-- MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT!

UH-OH... REALITY'S WARPING AGAIN! THE RING'S CHANGING SHAPE--

IT'S REFORMING INTO THE UNIVERSAL SIGN FOR *"ETERNITY"*! WHAT HIDDEN MEANING AM I SUPPOSED TO GET FROM THIS?

NOTHING IS HIDDEN-- ONLY UNSEEN!

OOP! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!

SCREEEEEEEECH!

THE *THIRD* ANCIENT WALKER!

THOU HAST DONE WELL!

YE HAVE COME FAR AND LEARNED MUCH! A BOON SHALL BE GRANTED!

YOU MAY ASK OF ME ONE QUESTION!

=gulp= JUST ONE?

THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS "YES"!

HUH?

WHAT?

OH NO-- WAIT!

THAT WASN'T MY--

THIS ISN'T FAIR!

WAIT A MINUTE... MAYBE THAT *IS* THE ULTIMATE ANSWER TO *ALL* QUESTIONS! " THIS ISN'T FAIR!"

RUMBLE...

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT CHAIN? IS THAT WHERE MAGIC RINGS GO WHEN THEY *LEAVE* A ZONE?

OR IS THAT WHERE THEY FIRST *COME FROM*?

WHIRL..

WHEN IT SPIRALED AROUND ME, IT LOOKED LIKE A *TRIPLE HELIX*-- COULD OUR UNIVERSE BE ONE STRAND OF *DNA** IN A HUGE, COSMIC ENTITY?

WHIRL.. WHIRL..

AND THAT SEA OF EMERALDS! CALMNESS AMIDST THE CHAOS-- MULTIFACETED, YET INDIVIDUALLY BEAUTIFUL.. SO VERY GREEN--

OWW! ALL THESE METAPHORS ARE GIVING ME A HEADACHE!**

ZOOSH!

*THAT GENETIC MATERIAL WE GET FROM OUR PARENTS THAT MAKES US "WHAT" WE ARE--DESIGNER "GENE" WEAR-EDITOR

** WHAT'S YOUR OPINION ABOUT THIS ETHEREAL EPISODE? SEND US YOUR SCHOLARLY **SONIC-GRAMS** -- EDITOR

AT THAT MOMENT:

EH? WHAT'S THIS? MY DASHBOARD ALARM IS GOING BERSERK!

EEEEEEEEEE

PLAYBOUT

FANTASTIC! SONIC IS RE-EMERGING FROM WHEREVER HE DISAPPEARED TO! AND HE'S COMING BACK AT UNIMAGINABLE *VELOCITY!*

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

YEEEEEEE-HA!

CURSES! HE SHOT RIGHT THROUGH MY ROBO-POD LIKE A HOT KNIFE CUTTING BUTTER, PUNCTURING THE ENGINE!

PTUM!

OOOP!

I'M OUT OF CONTROOOOOOOOOOOOL!

THE RING SURROUNDED ME WITH A *PROTECTIVE AURA* AS I RETURNED!

NORMALLY, I'M NOT A SOUVENIR COLLECTOR-- BUT YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE COMING HOME WITH ME!

ROBOOMNIK!

THE NEXT DAY:

I READ YOUR REPORT, SONIC! PRETTY AMAZING!

YOU'RE TELLING ME, SAL!

SONIC

BUT IT'S GOT MY CURIOSITY GOING! WHATEVER IT TAKES, I'M GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT!

FIGURE WHAT OUT?

THE *ORIGIN* OF THE MAGIC RINGS AND THE CHAOS EMERALDS!* THEY HOLD THE KEY TO CONQUERING ROBOTNIK AND FREEING MOBIUS!

*HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS -- THIS SENSE-SHATTERING SONICQUEST WILL BE COMING SOON! STAY TUNED TO THIS COMIC BOOK FOR DETAILS! - EDITOR

THAT'S VERY AMBITIOUS, SONIC...

AND I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO HELP ME ACHIEVE THAT GOAL... COME SEE!

HOW NICE! YOU HAD IT MOUNTED!

YEAH... IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE THAT ADVENTURE IN ONE WORD, IT WOULD BE "INSPIRE-RING!"

OVER ONE BILLION SERVED

THE END

SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS

KNUCKLES™

A SENSE OF HISTORY

PART II

"A *RIDDLE*-- WRAPPED IN AN *ENIGMA!*"

HOW COULD THE *DISAPPEARANCE* OF THE *CHAOTIX*...

...AND THE ACTIONS OF THE UNSEEN *"ARCHIMEDES"*...

ARCHIMEDES

...BE CONNECTED TO THE ANCIENT *LEGENDS* WHICH SURROUND *MOUNT FATE?**

I'VE GOTTA THINK *BACK*...

...BACK TO THE TALES MY *FATHER* TOLD ME OF OUR PEOPLE'S *SALVATION*...

...AND *HOW* THAT SALVATION-- BETRAYED BY *ARROGANCE*-- NEARLY DESTROYED THE *WORLD!*

SCRIPT & PENCILS:
KEN PENDERS
INKS:
JON D'AGOSTINO

* FOR THE FULL DETAILS, CHECK OUT LAST ISSUE! -- EDITOR

GENERATIONS HAD PASSED SINCE THE *FLOATING ISLAND* *ESCAPED* THE *GRIP* OF *GRAVITY!*

"IN THAT TIME, MY PEOPLE LEARNED TO *ADAPT*...

"...THOUGH MANY YEARNED FOR THE *EARTHBOUND* DAYS OF SOCIETY'S *YOUTH!*"

RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

FINALLY!

THOUGHT WE'D *NEVER* GET CLEAR OF THAT *UNDERBRUSH!*

THERE IT *IS, DIMITRI*-- DIRECTLY *AHEAD* OF US...

THRAAASH!

...THE *ZOOT-CHUTE!*

TO ZOOT CHUTE

AND *THROUGH* IT...

PLOP!

...EASY ACCESS TO OUR MOST *SACRED* OF PLACES!

WHOOSH!

THE CHAOS CHAMBER...

...AND THE *EMERALDS* THAT LIE WITHIN!

OUR GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER WAS THE SUPREME *TECHNOLOGIST* OF HER ERA--SHE KNEW THESE CRYSTALLINE WALLS WOULD ENABLE THE *CHAOS EMERALDS* TO NEGATE THE *FORCE* OF *GRAVITY*...

...AND LIFT *ECHIDNAPOLIS* TO LOFTY HEIGHTS!

AGREED, BROTHER *EDMUND!*

BUT--SHOULD WE *SUCCEED* IN THIS VENTURE...

...OUR *NAMES* WILL BE HELD IN EVEN *HIGHER* ESTEEM!

UNCANNY!

PING! PING! PING!

AFTER ALL THIS TIME, THE GEMS' *ENERGY OUTPUT* REMAINS *CONSTANT!*

SURELY THESE TWELVE "*CHAOS EMERALDS*" HOLD *WITHIN* THEM THE KEY TO LIMITLESS, SELF-PERPETUATING *POWER!*

PERHAPS, DIMITRI--BUT YOU MUSTN'T LOSE SIGHT OF OUR *GOAL*--

--THE *LIBERATION* OF OUR DISPLACED RACE!

SINCE THE COMING OF THE *WHITE COMET*, ECHIDNA SCIENCE HAS STRIVED TO *REGULATE* THE EFFECT OF THE EMERALDS--THAT WE MIGHT AGAIN BECOME *ONE* WITH THE LAND!

OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN--OUR *PRESENTATION* IS *TODAY!*

MY *APOLOGIES*, EDMUND--I'VE ALREADY COLLECTED THE READINGS WE NEED.

I WAS MERELY...

...LOST IN THOUGHT.

"LATER, IN THE *HALL OF LEARNING*, HISTORY STOOD POISED TO *REPEAT* ITSELF...

HALL of LEARNING

"...ALTHOUGH WITH SEVERAL *TWISTS* AND *TURNS!*"

CITIZENS! MEMBERS OF THE *SCIENTIFIC ELITE!*

BEHOLD...

...THE *CHAOS SYPHON!*

AS YOU ARE *AWARE*, REMOVING THE *EMERALDS* WOULD CAUSE OUR *ISLAND* TO *DROP* LIKE A *STONE.*

INSTEAD, MY BROTHER AND I INTEND TO TRAIN THIS *DEVICE* UPON THEM...

...GRADUALLY *ABSORBING* THEIR *ENERGIES...*

...UNTIL *ECHIDNAPOLIS* IS ONCE AGAIN *JOINED* WITH THE *LAND!*

WELL-SPOKEN, BROTHER!

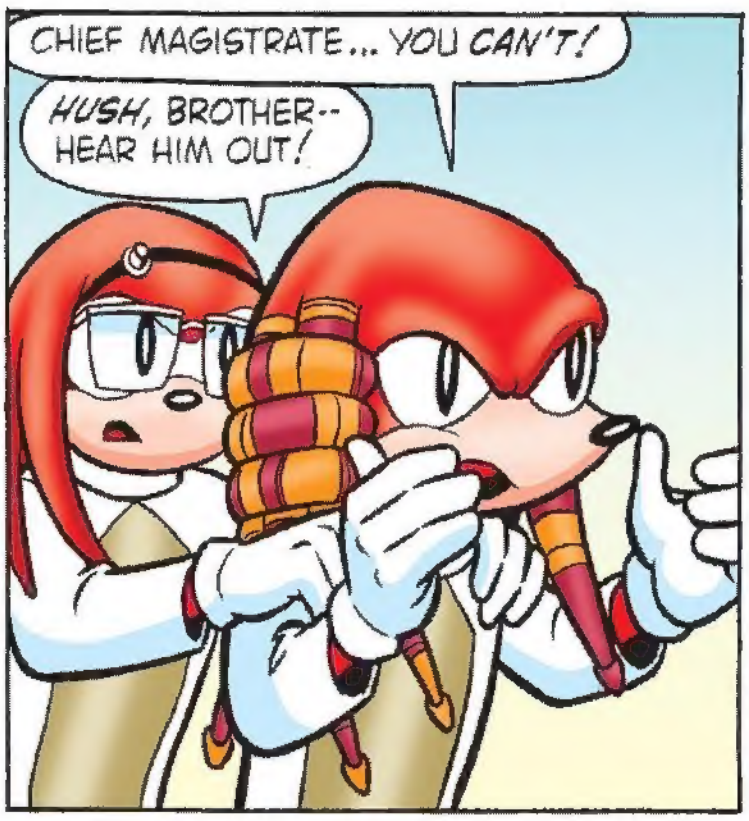
OUR PROPOSAL IS *ELEGANT* IN ITS SIMPLICITY!

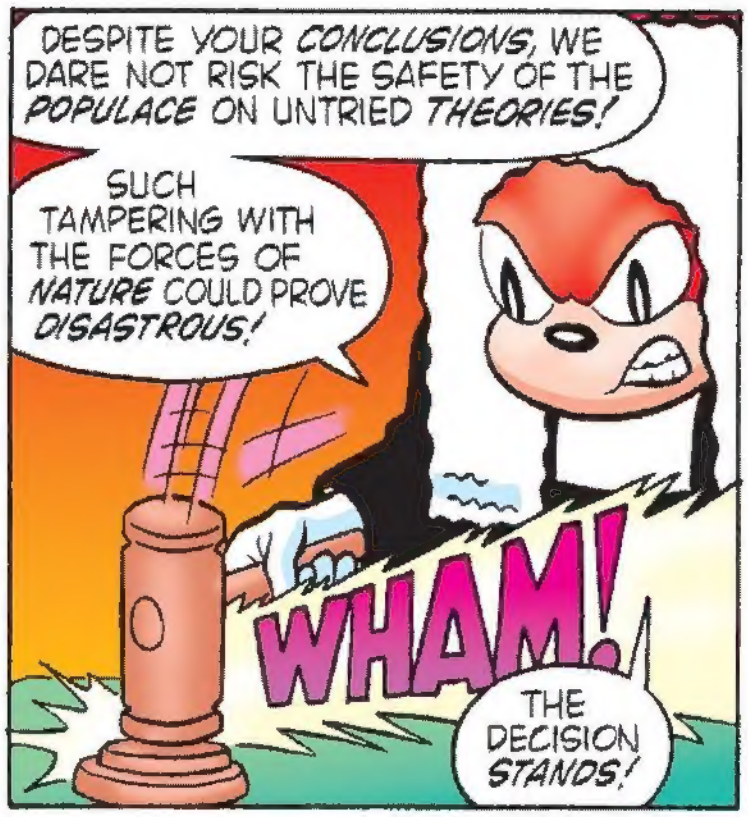
THE ELITE WILL HAVE NO *CHOICE* BUT TO--

...*DENY* THE PETITION!

WH-WHAT?!!

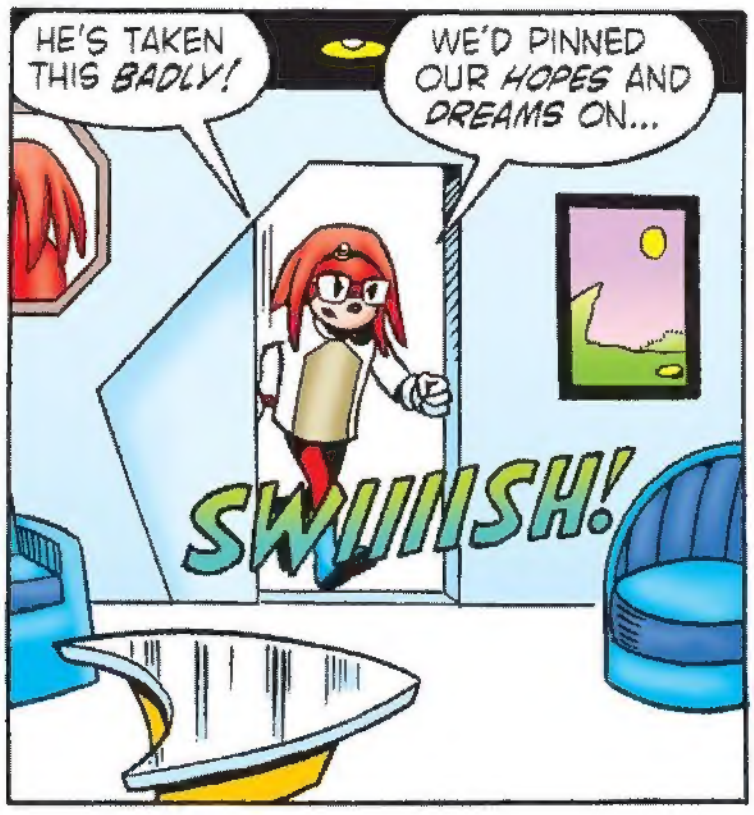
BAM!


CHIEF MAGISTRATE... YOU CAN'T!
HUSH, BROTHER-- HEAR HIM OUT!


DESPITE YOUR CONCLUSIONS, WE DARE NOT RISK THE SAFETY OF THE POPULACE ON UNTRIED THEORIES!
SUCH TAMPERING WITH THE FORCES OF NATURE COULD PROVE DISASTROUS!
WHAM!
THE DECISION STANDS!

WEAK-WILLED FOOLS!
YOU'LL BE SORRY...
...ONCE THE FACTS HAVE PROVEN ME RIGHT!

DIMITRI.
BY YOUR LEAVE, CHIEF MAGISTRATE!


HE'S TAKEN THIS BADLY!
WE'D PINNED OUR HOPES AND DREAMS ON...
SWIIISH!

...THE CHAOS SYPHON!
IT'S GONE!

"ONCE THE *FACTS* HAVE PROVEN ME *RIGHT!*"

I KNEW HE WAS *HEADSTRONG--*

BUT *THIS...*

TO ZOOT CHUTE

DIMITRI!

IN THE NAME OF *REASON--!*

ZZZZUUUUMMMM

"REASON"?

REASON HAD ITS *DAY*, BROTHER!

KA-KLIK whrrrrrr...

AND WHAT HAS *BEGUN...*

KLAKT!

...CANNOT BE *UNDONE!*

EOEOEOEOEOEOEO

KRA-KOOOOM!

EDMUND!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I-- THINK SO, CHIEF MAGISTRATE!
BUT-- DIMITRI UPPED THE ABSORPTION RATE PAST THE SYPHON'S TOLERANCE LEVEL!
HE--
--HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE!
NEITHER DID THESE GEMS!
NOTHING BUT CHARRED, BLACKENED HUSKS!
THEN--WHY AREN'T WE FALLING?
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER!
THE LAST OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS!
BUT--CAN ONLY ONE UPHOLD THE ENTIRE ISLAND?
OF COURSE!
ITS POWER IS INFINITE!
DIMITRI?
FAR MORE, O ONCE AND FORMER KIN!
THE ENERGIES OF ELEVEN SHATTERED CHAOS EMERALDS HOWL WITHIN ME!
POWER ENOUGH TO LAY WORLDS TO WASTE!
F-ZUUUUMMM

OR RE-FASHION THEM...

...IN MY OWN IMAGE!

RRRRUUUUMMBLLL

AND AS HE SPOKE, THE GROUND *TWISTED* AND *HEAVED*, UNTIL A MASSIVE *DARK TOWER* ERUPTED FROM THE EARTH!

THE *SHADOW* FROM WHAT WOULD BE KNOWN AS *MOUNT FATE* SPREAD ACROSS THE LAND...

...HERALDING THE *FALL* OF ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION!